

Ser. No. 10/591,359
Internal Docket No. PU030060

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A method for transmitting program signal, comprising the steps of:

receiving the program signal;
receiving second program signal;
encoding the program signal using the second program signal and a first function;
transmitting the encoded program signal via a first transmission channel; and
transmitting the second program signal via a second transmission channel that is independent of the first transmission channel.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising time aligning the program signal and the second program signal prior to the step of encoding the program signal.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the first function is a XOR function.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein transmitting the encoded program signal comprises upconverting the encoded program signal and providing the upconverted signal to a combiner that combines the upconverted signals with a plurality of program signals on different transmission channels.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising:

receiving a third program signal, wherein the encoding step comprises encoding the program signal using the second program signal and the first function during a first time

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period, and encoding the program signal using the third program signal and the first function during a second period of time.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein the encoding step comprises changing the encoding using the second program signal and the third program signal on a periodic basis.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of encoding the second program signal using the program signal and the first function, and transmitting the encoded second program signal on a second transmission channel that is independent of the first transmission channel.

32. (Previously Presented) A receiver apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of receivers capable of simultaneously receiving a plurality of program signals from respective independent channels associated with each of the receivers; and
decoder, coupled to the plurality of receivers, for processing a first encoded program signal received from a first transmission channel using a first function and a second program signal received from a second transmission channel, which is independent of the first transmission channel, to thereby decode the first program signal.

33. (Previously Presented) The receiver apparatus of claim 32, wherein the decoder includes means for time aligning the first encoded program signal with the second program signal prior to decoding the first encoded program signal.

34. (Previously Presented) The receiver apparatus of claim 32, wherein the decoder decodes the first encoded program signal using the second program signal and the first function during a first period of time, and decodes the first encoded program signal using the second program signal and a second function during a second period of time.

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35. **(Previously Presented)** The receiver apparatus of claim 32, wherein the decoder decodes the first encoded program signal using the second program signal received from a second transmission channel and the first function during a first period of time, and decodes the first encoded program signal using a third program signal received from a third transmission channel, which is independent of the first transmission channel, during a second period of time.

36. **(Currently Amended)** The receiver apparatus of claim 32 35, wherein the decoder changes the decoding between the second program signal and the third program signal on a periodic basis.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The receiver apparatus of claim 32, wherein the second program signal is encoded, and the decoder decodes the second program signal using the decoded first program signal and a second function.

38. **(Previously Presented)** A receiver apparatus, comprising:
means for simultaneously receiving a plurality of program signal transmitted via respective independent transmission channels;
decoder means, coupled to the receiving means, for processing a first encoded program signal received from a first transmission channel using a first function and a second program signal received from a second transmission channel, which is independent of the first transmission channel, to thereby decode the first program signal.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The receiver apparatus of claim 38, wherein the decoder means includes means for time aligning the first encoded program signal with the second program signal prior to decoding the first encoded program signal.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The receiver apparatus of claim 38, wherein the decoder means decodes the first encoded program signal using the second program signal and the first function during a first period of time, and decodes the first encoded program signal using the second program signal and a second function during a second period of time.

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41. **(Previously Presented)** The receiver apparatus of claim 38, wherein the decoder means decodes the first encoded program signal using the second program signal received from a second transmission channel and the first function during a first period of time, and decodes the first encoded program signal using a third program signal received from a third transmission channel, which is independent of the first transmission channel, during a second period of time.

42. **(Previously Presented)** A method for processing an encoded program signal, comprising the steps of:

simultaneously receiving the encoded program signal over a first transmission channel and a second program signal over a second transmission channel, which is independent of the first transmission channel; and

decoding the encoded program signal using the second program signal and a first function.

43. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 42, further comprising the step of

time-aligning the encoded program signal and the second program signal prior to decoding the encoded program signal.

44. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 42, wherein the decoding step comprises decoding the encoded program using the second program signal and the first function during a first time period, and decoding the encoded program using the second program signal and a second function during a second time period.

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45. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 42, wherein the receiving step comprises simultaneously receiving a third program signal on a third transmission channel that is independent of the first transmission channel, the decoding step comprises decoding the encoded program signal using the second program signal and the first function during a first time period, and decoding the encoded program signal using the third program signal and the first function during a second time period.

46. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 42, wherein the second program signal is encoded, and the decoding step comprises decoding the second program signal using the encoded program signal and the first function.